BRITISH COLUMBIA | BC Stats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 13-02 January 11th, 2013

- **B.C. exports up 0.2% in November**
- **November building permits fall 6.1%**
- **New housing prices in Vancouver and Victoria down in November**

The Economy

- **The value of B.C.'s commodity exports inched up 0.2% (*seasonally adjusted*) in November.** Strong growth in shipments of energy products (+18.9%) and basic & industrial chemical, plastic & rubber products (+41.0%) helped offset large declines in exports of farm, fishing & intermediate food products (-37.8%), metal & non-metallic mineral products (-24.7%) and metal ores & non-metallic minerals (-12.4%).

  Exports to the United States fell 2.2%, largely due to falling shipments of metal & non-metallic mineral products (-11.7%) and forestry products & building & packaging materials (-3.0%), as well as a few other commodity groups. However, exports to the rest of the world climbed 2.2%, mainly on the strength of a 32.5% jump in shipments of energy products. *Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

- **Canadian exports were 0.9% lower (*seasonally adjusted*) in November, with many of the larger sectors posting losses.** As was the case in B.C., decreases in exports of energy (-1.2%) and metal & non-metallic mineral products (-7.6%) were the primary causes of the downturn. Overall, exports south of the border (+3.9%) and Japan (+8.1%) were up, but shipments to the European Union (-19.4%) plummeted. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The value of building permits issued by B.C. municipalities fell 6.1% (*seasonally adjusted*) in November following a 17.9% decrease in the previous month.** Permits for residential projects were up 16.7%, somewhat offsetting a decline registered in the value of permits issued for other types of buildings (-33.6%). Permits issued for institutional & government projects surged (+188.8%) in November, following a 66.0% decrease in October. However, planned spending on commercial (-19.9%) and industrial (-81.1%) projects dropped.

  Building permits increased in the Vancouver (+21.2%), Abbotsford-Mission (+46.3%) and Victoria (+8.3%) areas, but Kelowna (-33.8%), B.C.'s other census metropolitan area, posted a considerable decline.

  Canadian permits slipped 17.9% in November, mostly due to decreases in Quebec (-9.3%) and Ontario (-34.7%). Permits were up slightly in Alberta (+1.5%) and strongly in Manitoba (+28.0%) but off in Saskatchewan (-30.8%), and parts of Atlantic Canada.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Year-to-date, building permits were 18.6% higher than in the first eleven months of 2011, with increases in five out of the eight regions.** Planned spending on construction projects was up in all regions of the province except Vancouver Island/Coast (-9.1%), Northeast (-6.6%), and Thompson/Okanagan (-5.8%).

  Among other regions, North Coast (+630.4%) posted by far the largest increase, followed by a double-digit increase in Mainland/Southwest (+21.9%). Permits values rose moderately in Kootenay (+8.4%) and Cariboo (+9.6%), and inched up slightly in Nechako (+2.6%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

Report No report this issue

Did you know...

Three quarters (76%) of British Columbians say that 2012 was a good year for them and their families. *Source: Ipsos Canada*

Housing

- **Relative to the same month of 2011, the cost of new housing in B.C.'s largest cities continued to decline in November 2012.** Home builders in Vancouver received 0.4% less for their projects, while Victoria's housing price index decreased more substantially (-2.9%). Falling housing prices (-3.4%) in the capital city paired up with a moderate decline in land value (-1.4%) to pull overall prices down. Conversely, a 1.0% decrease in the cost of houses in Vancouver was partially offset by a 0.5% rise in the value of land.

  Nationally, the new housing price index rose 2.2% during the twelve-month period ending in November. Costs for both land and buildings were on the rise. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Impaired Driving

- **Police in British Columbia recorded 18,835 instances of impaired driving in 2011.** Reported instances of impaired driving occurred at a rate of 412 people per 100,000 of the population, translating to a 49% increase in the rate since data was last reported in 2001 (Note that an increase in *recorded* incidents of impaired driving does not necessarily equate to an increase in impaired driving). Of the total, 17,281 of drivers were impaired by alcohol, while 298 were impaired by drugs. Alcohol-related impaired driving resulted in 70 instances of bodily harm and 14 deaths.

  Of reporting census metropolitan areas (CMAs), Kelowna had the highest rate (583 per 100,000), followed by Abbotsford-Mission (367), Victoria (342) and Vancouver (296). The most marked climb in the rate of incidence was seen in Abbotsford-Mission (+138%). The rate was also distinctly higher in other parts of the province, with Kelowna (+76%), Victoria (+56%) and Vancouver (+50%) all recording increases.

  Nationally, there were 90,277 instances of police-reported impaired driving. The rate of incidence per 100,000 of the population was 262, translating to a two percent decline since 2001. The rate dropped in just three provinces, falling 28% in Ontario, 18% in Quebec, and nine percent in New Brunswick. The distribution of reported incidents between males and females charged has shifted dramatically over time, with 18% of incidents charged to females in 2011, compared to eight percent in 1986. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Health

- **Results from the Canadian Health Measures Survey indicate that Canadian children aged three to five are more likely to have sufficient levels of Vitamin D than other age groups**. During the survey period of 2009 to 2011, 89% of children between the ages of three and five had blood concentrations of vitamin D at or above the recommended level for healthy bones. On the other end of the scale, 20- to 39-year-olds had the lowest (59%) percentage over the cut-off level.

  Overall, approximately a third of Canadians (32%) had blood concentrations of vitamin D deemed insufficient for most people.

  Children and adults who were overweight or obese generally had lower average vitamin D blood levels than those who were normal or underweight. Seasons were also a factor, with approximately 40% of Canadians below the cut-off in winter, compared to just 25% in the summer. On average, females had a higher concentration of vitamin D in their blood than males.

  Data Source: S.C. Canadian Health Measures Survey

The Nation

- **Tourism spending in Canada climbed 1.0% in the third quarter of 2012.** Strong Canadian tourism demand (+1.6%) was behind the boost, as spending by non-residents was down (-1.5%). Overnight travel to Canada from both the US and overseas was down.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Oct 1/2012	% change on one year ago
BC	4,638.8	0.9
Canada	35,002.4	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 19)		
(BC - at market prices)	2011	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	217,749	4.5
GDP *($ 2007 millions)*	206,180	2.8
GDP *($ 2007 per Capita)*	45,083	1.8
Household Sector Disposable Income *($ 2007 per Capita)*	26,788	0.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Oct 2012	3,241	1.8
Merchandise Exports - Nov 2012	2,742	0.2
Retail Sales - Oct 2012	5,097	0.2
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Nov 2012)	one year ago	% change
BC	0.1	1.2
Vancouver	0.2	1.4
Victoria	-0.2	1.1
Canada	0.8	1.6
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Dec 2012	prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	0.6	
Labour Force - BC	2,474.3	-0.2
Employed - BC	2,313.3	0.0
Unemployed - BC	161.0	-3.9
		Nov 2012
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.5	6.8
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.1	7.2
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jan 9/2013	Jan 11/2012
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.00	3.50
- 5 year	5.24	5.29
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jan 9/2013	Jan 11/2012
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9868	1.0192
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	1.0125	0.9811
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Dec 2012	one year ago
BC	868.09	1.5
Canada	873.15	2.3

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics
For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Provincial Economic Accounts 2011

Provincial economic accounts data for 2011, including gross domestic product, are now available. . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Economy/EconomicAccounts.aspx

2012 DACSO Data Released

Data from the 2012 Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes (DACSO) Survey have been released and are available through the Student Outcomes Reporting System (SORS). See more:
http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/default/Home.aspx

Small Business Profile, 2011

The 2012 Edition of the annual profile of small business in British Columbia is now available. The report provides information on BC's small businesses, including number of businesses, employment and small business' contribution to the provincial economy. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/BusinessIndustry/SmallBusiness.aspx

Open Data, 2011 Census, Language Data

The fourth and final data release from the 2011 Census. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Open Data, Census Area Profiles NEW – 2001 files added

Here's where you can get at the datasets for all areas, large and small. We'll be adding more as 2011 Census data are released, as well as additional historical tables – so keep coming back! See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Released this week by BC Stats

- Exports
- Sub-Provincial Population Estimates

To Release next week

- Employment Insurance

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